Setting up of Mumbai Rail Development Corporation

457. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:
SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR
SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to set up the 'Mumbai Rail Development Corporation' to oversee the Mumbai Urban Transport Project Phase II;

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating the circumstances leading to the setting up of the new Corporation; and

(c) the steps so far taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The World Bank have given some project preparatory assistance to Indian Railways and Government of Maharashtra for the road component and rail component of MUTP-II. They are agreeable to funding MUTP-II provided a proper institutional framework for co-ordination, execution, and implementation of the project including the rail component has been created. Keeping in view these aspects the Ministry of Railways decided to set up a Mumbai Rail Development Corporation.

(c) A draft MOU proposed to be signed between the Government of India (Ministry of Railways) and Government of Maharashtra has been drawn up envisaging 51% equity participation by Ministry of Railways and 49% by Government of Maharashtra. The process of seeking Cabinet approval has been initiated.

Hike in railway passenger fares

458. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:
SHRI SUSHILKUMAR
SAM BHAJIRAO SHINDE:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to raise railway passenger fares, including those for daily commuters, and to withdraw the subsidies on freight in respect of essential commodities;

(b) if so, the details in the regard, indicating estimated per annum additional revenue to be obtained thereby; and

(c) how far the additional earnings would suffice to meet the added expenditure resulting from implementation of 5th Pay Commission Report for Railway Employees?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) At present there is no proposal to increase the passenger fares. Adjustment of freight rate of selected commodities has been made w.e.f. 15.10.1997 by partially withdrawing concession enjoyed by these commodities in the past, and also by increasing the freight rate for Coal by an average of 3.6 percent.

(b) The estimate of additional revenue from this adjustment in freight rates of selected commodities is Rs. 526 crores.

(c) Besides the hike in freight charges, the Railways are taking various measures to augment earnings and to control expenditure, as a result of which there is no likelihood of any shortage of funds.

Regularisation of employees of Railways Institutes

459. SHRI S. MUTHU MANI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry is considering to grant regular Railway staff status to Railway Institutes employees, who are presently considered as Quasi Railwaymen;

(b) whether the Ministry has received any representation in this regard; and

(c) if so, the action taken on the above?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) In recent past, no representation has been received in this regard.

(c) Does not arise.

दिल्ली-अहमदाबाद राजधानी एक्सप्रेस

460. **श्री सुन्दर सिंह भंडारी:** क्या रेल मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) दिल्ली-जयपुर-अहमदाबाद राजधानी एक्सप्रेस को प्रारम्भ न किए जाने के क्या कारण हैं;

(ख) रेल की पटरी में किन-किन स्थलों पर खराबी की पहचान की गयी है और उनकी मरम्मत करने में कितना समय लगेगा; और

(ग) राजधानी एक्सप्रेस के डिब्बे कब तक तैयार हो जायेंगे?

रेल मंत्री (श्री राम विलास पासवान): (क) से (ग) बम विस्फोट/दुर्घटना के कारण राजधानी सेवाओं के अस्त व्यस्त होने के कारण और बाद में नई दिल्ली में गैर अन्तर्पाशन के परिणामस्वरूप दिल्ली क्षेत्र में परिचालनिक कठिनाइयों के कारण राजधानी नहीं चलाई जा सकी। नई दिल्ली में गैर अन्तर्पाशन कार्य के पूरा होने के बाद गाड़ी चलाई जाएगी।

Comparative rate of Indian Railway accidents

461. SHRI S. RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI:
SHRI NILOTPAL BASU:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Railways are accident prone in view of the situation arising out of age-old tracks, rolling stocks, signalling systems, unmanned railway crossing, sabotaging etc.;

(b) the comparative rate of accident in Indian Railways in world scene; and

(c) the punishments awarded to officers responsible for accidents in India vis-a-vis other countries?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) to (c) Train accidents do take place on account of these factors but it does not imply that Indian Railways are accident prone. In fact, the incidence of consequential train accidents per million train kilometers has come down from 1.5 during 1984-85 to 0.57 during 1996-97. During 1996-97, 194 persons were awarded major penalties including dismissal/removal from service/ compulsory retirement and 576 persons were awarded minor penalties.

Comparative figures of accidents and punishments awarded on other railway systems of the world are not mantained.

Thane Railway Station

462. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry is aware that the first Railway of India had run between Mumbai and Thane; and

(b) if so, why Thane is ignored by Railways?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Thane station is not being ignored, as additional facilities as per the passenger traffic requirements, have been developed from time to time. At present, 6 passenger platforms with covered shed connecting Foot-Over-Bridges, 30 Booking windows (including 8 for reservation) and various other passenger amenities, have been provided.

Further, two works for remodelling of the station and improvement and renovation to passenger amenities, have also been approved to provide additional passenger amenities at Thane.

Losses suffered by Railways during Haryana agitation by BKU

463. SHRI S.M. KRISHNA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of loss of Railways' property suffered during the recent movement of BKU Activists in and around the State of Haryana;